



A Newsletter for Recycling Coordinators

## S.C. recycling rate falls to 22.4 percent

South Carolina's recycling rate fell about six percentage points in fiscal year (FY) 2004 from the previous FY according to the S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC).

The state's recycling rate is measured only from the total amount of municipal solid waste (MSW) – the combined residential, commercial, institutional/non-profit and industrial packaging/administrative waste generated.

About 966,000 tons of MSW – 22.4 percent of the total MSW generated in South Carolina – were recycled in FY04 (July 1, 2003 to June 30, 2004) according to figures compiled by DHEC for the "S.C. Solid Waste Management Annual Report" (Report). In FY03, more than 1.3 million tons of MSW – about 28.8 percent of the total MSW generated in the state – were recycled. The FY04 MSW recycling rate is nearly 13 percentage points below the state's goal to recycle 35 percent of the total MSW generated by June 30, 2005.

In FY04, 3,111,627 tons (72.3 percent) of the MSW generated were disposed of at MSW landfills while 227,802 tons (5.3 percent) were disposed of at a waste-to-energy facility in Charleston County.

It is important to note the recycling rate for the total amount of solid waste – not just MSW. More than 5 million tons (or about 41 percent of all the solid waste generated) were recycled in FY04. The amount of MSW disposed of increased slightly from 4.35 pounds per person per day (p/p/d) in FY03 to 4.4 p/p/d in FY04. This rate has changed little in five years and remains above the state's waste disposal (reduction) goal of 3.5 p/p/d to be met by June 30, 2005.

Several factors contributed to the drop in the state's MSW recycling rate. They include: more accurate reporting by county governments combined with over reporting in earlier reports; an improved review of the county progress reports

by DHEC; under reporting of recycling activities by businesses, schools and others; and a lack of participation by residents in local recycling programs.

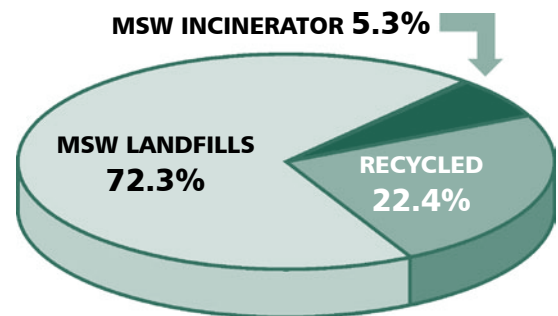
"It's clear from the rate there is more work to do," said Arthur D. Braswell, director of DHEC's Division of Mining and Solid Waste Management. "But it is important to remember that there is a solid foundation in place. We're going to continue working with local governments to increase participation rates with more education and outreach efforts. We're also looking to target specific areas we believe can be improved including the recycling efforts of businesses and targeting beverage containers."

Only Oconee County met both the state's recycling and waste disposal (reduction)

goals. Oconee County had a 36.6 percent recycling rate – exceeding the state's goal of 35 percent. The county also disposed of 3.2 pounds of MSW p/p/d, meeting the 3.5 p/p/d waste disposal (reduction) goal.

To view the Report on-line, visit [www.scdhec.gov/recycle/html/pubs.html](http://www.scdhec.gov/recycle/html/pubs.html).

### Where MSW Goes in South Carolina, FY04



SOURCE: S.C. Solid Waste Management Annual Report FY04

## DHEC honors state's top recyclers

Karen Hyatt of Sumter County was named the **S.C. Recycling Coordinator of the Year** during the 10<sup>th</sup> annual Recycle Guys Awards Program on February 11 in Columbia. The program was held by the S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control's (DHEC) Office of Solid Waste Reduction and Recycling (Office).



Hyatt

"This is our opportunity to thank the best programs, projects and people in the state that have helped make South Carolina one of the nation's

best recycling success stories," said Arthur D. Braswell, director of DHEC's Division of Mining and Solid Waste Management as well as the Office. "Recycling works because of the local programs."

Braswell said Hyatt was recognized for her leadership, innovation and success in finding opportunities to work with other programs. She set up a partnership with Shaw Air Force Base that resulted in pesticide containers being recycled and made into plastic pallets. Hyatt has been the county's recycling coordinator since 1986 and in that time the disposal rate has decreased from 5.6 to 2.8 pounds per person per day.

*Continued on the following page*

## Top Recyclers, continued from page 1

Sumter County was honored as the **Outstanding Local Government Used Oil Recycling Program** for the fourth consecutive year.

Georgetown County was named the **Outstanding Local Government Waste Reduction/Recycling Program**. The county reported recycling nearly 14,000 tons of materials in fiscal year 2004 at its 13 recycling drop-off centers. Georgetown County was recognized for its overall commitment to recycling, staff training, public education and customer service. Georgetown County also received the **Outstanding Composting Program** award.

Dede Bishop of Charleston County was honored as the **S.C. Recycling Educator of the Year**. Bishop – who has been with the county for 10 years – was recognized for her outstanding and diverse efforts in recycling education. Bishop makes frequent presentations throughout the community. She oversees tours of the county's materials recovery facility, develops and offers contests and organizes numerous events including the Earth Day Festival that attracts about 3,000 people each year. She also organized a class to teach Spanish to solid waste management staff.



**Bishop**



**Janis**



**Vaughn**



**Lydiard**

Other winners included:

- The City of Greenville – **Outstanding Local Government Waste Reduction/Recycling Education Program**;
- Winthrop University – **Outstanding College or University Waste Reduction/Recycling Program**;
- S.C. Army National Guard – **Outstanding State Agency Waste Reduction/Recycling Program**;
- Harold Looper of Pickens County – **Most Creative Waste Reduction/Recycling Effort Award**;
- Adam Janis of Coastal Carolina University – **Melba McKenzie Award** recipient for volunteer service;
- Horry County Solid Waste Authority – **Business Recycling Promotion Award**;
- Dot Vaughn of A.C. Flora High School in Columbia – **S.C. Recycling Teacher of the Year**;
- Gold Hill Middle School in Fort Mill – **S.C. Recycling School of the Year**; and
- Jessica Lydiard of Charleston's Academic Magnet High School – **S.C. Recycling Student of the Year**.

For more information about the Recycle Guys Awards Program and the 2004 winners, visit [www.scdhec.gov/recycle/html/rgawards.html](http://www.scdhec.gov/recycle/html/rgawards.html).



Georgetown County's Jennifer Grier, Betty Linen and Lin Wisikoski were honored for having the **Outstanding Local Government Waste Reduction/Recycling Program** and **Outstanding Composting Program**. Linen was honored with a **Recycling Center Attendant Recognition Award**.



Recycling Coordinator Allison Woodruff accepts the City of Greenville's award for **Outstanding Local Government Waste Reduction/Recycling Education Program** from DHEC Commissioner Earl Hunter.



For the first time, county recycling center attendants received special awards for their efforts to make recycling work in South Carolina. Award recipients were chosen by their county's solid waste and recycling departments. The following attendants were recognized during the awards program: Claude Prather, Aiken County; Jutson Penwell, Barnwell County; Sherrie Tisdale, Berkeley County; Annie Beard, Cherokee County; Clyde (Jud) Hindman, Chester County; Brenda Patterson, Clarendon County; Susan Hucks and James Warren, City of Conway; Louine Stamey and William Tedder, Darlington County; Bobbie Roberson, Dillon County; Ronald Beltz, Dorchester County; Betty Linen, Georgetown County; Elijah S. Prince, Hampton County; Debra Gordon, Horry County; Marva "Mopp B" Burroughs, Jasper County; Tony Watts, Lancaster County; Wanda Reid, Oconee County; Bill Pendergrass, Pickens County; Linda Brackett, Spartanburg County; Evelyn McCavour, Sumter County; Buddy Newton, Union County; and Thomas Watts, York County.



# Hiller, other S.C. recyclers honored by the Carolina Recycling Association

The Carolina Recycling Association (CRA) recently recognized the best recycling programs, projects and people in North Carolina and South Carolina during its annual conference and trade show in Myrtle Beach.

**Jane Hiller**, recycling educator for Paper Stock Dealers Sonoco, was honored as the **Recycler of the Year**. This award is given each year to an individual who has made a significant contribution to the advancement of integrated solid waste reduction. Hiller strives to educate students, teachers, businesses and the public on the importance and benefits of waste reduction, reuse and recycling. She has started and promotes several innovative programs including:



*Hiller*

- the **Rethink Workshop** for teachers – held every second Thursday to highlight different environmental topics;
- the **Green Steps Program** – a project of Keep the Midlands Beautiful – recently added to the S.C. Resource Conservation Challenge under Hiller's direction;
- **Earth Day Irmo** – a celebration held each year at the Irmo Library;
- **classes for students** focusing on waste reduction and recycling as well as environmental careers at the University of South Carolina's School of the Environment; and
- **CRA's Midlands Networking Council** – provides a structure for people to work on solutions to current waste reduction problems.

**Charleston County's E-waste Program** won the **Bill Evans and Carol Bond Memorial Award for Outstanding Toxicity Reduction**. This award is given to an exceptional program or business that is dedicated to toxicity reduction.

Charleston County was recognized for taking a proactive approach in addressing the problem of obsolete computers and electronics equipment (e-waste). What began as a one-day, grant-funded collection event has grown into a program that services the entire county with eight permanent e-waste collection sites. The program also has grown to include one-day collection events in Charleston County neighborhoods.

Both the **City of Greenville's** and **Georgetown County's** award-winning efforts also were recognized as Spotlight Award winners. CRA honored both programs because they made significant contributions to waste reduction and recycling in the Carolinas during 2004.

## Mitchell named new resource center coordinator

**Mary Mitchell** recently joined the staff of DHEC's Office of Solid Waste Reduction and Recycling as its resource center coordinator.

She can be reached by e-mail at [mitcheme@dhec.sc.gov](mailto:mitcheme@dhec.sc.gov) or by calling the Recycling Hot Line – **1-800-768-7348**.



*Mitchell*

## Celebrate International Compost Awareness Week

Everyone is encouraged to plan events in their community to promote the value of compost during International Compost Awareness Week, May 1-7. All types of composting events – from do-it-yourself backyard composting to large-scale community-wide composting – can be promoted during the week.

Visit [www.compostingcouncil.org](http://www.compostingcouncil.org) for event ideas.

## CALENDAR: April - June 2005

### APRIL 4

"Green Driver" Presentation,  
Bamberg-Ehrhardt High School

### APRIL 5

"Green Driver" Presentation,  
Lakewood High School

### APRIL 7

"Green Driver" Presentation,  
Sumter High School

"Green Driver" Presentation,  
Lugoff-Elgin High School

### APRIL 8

"Energy 2 Learn" Presentation,  
Fort Mill Middle School

### APRIL 12

"Green Driver" Presentation,  
Crestwood High School

### APRIL 19

"Earth Today," 1 p.m.,  
South Carolina ETV

"Energy Tonight," 1:30 p.m.,  
South Carolina ETV

### APRIL 22

**Earth Day**

See page 6 for a schedule of events  
throughout South Carolina.

### MAY 1-7

**International Compost  
Awareness Week**

### JUNE 9

"Green Driver" Presentation,  
Dillon High School

### JUNE 14

"Action for a cleaner tomorrow"  
Training, Greenville

### JUNE 15

"Green Driver" Presentation,  
York Comprehensive High School

### JUNE 22

**Energy 2 Learn Summer Workshop,**  
Columbia

## Climate Profiles: The Environmental Impact of Recycling

Greenhouse gases (GHGs) are emitted at nearly every stage of a product's life cycle – including the management of solid waste – and contribute to global climate change. How solid waste is managed can have a substantial impact on GHG emissions. Practices such as waste prevention and recycling can result in significant reductions in GHG emissions.

In partnership with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's WasteWise program, the S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control's Office of Solid Waste Reduction and Recycling provided a Climate Profile to each county based on its fiscal year (FY) 2004 recycling activities.

The Climate Profiles provide detailed information on GHG emission reductions with equivalencies putting the environmental impact of recycling in perspective. The information provided in the Climate Profiles can be used to highlight the importance of recycling programs and enhance educational messages.

As a result of statewide recycling efforts in FY04, 965,916 tons of municipal solid waste was recycled in South Carolina. This resulted in an environmental impact equivalent to:

- removing 470,360 cars from the road for one year; or
- growing 55,528,582 seedlings for 10 years; or
- conserving 5,056,367 barrels of crude oil.

For more information on WasteWise or the Climate Profiles, please call 1-800-768-7348.



## DHEC, Energy Office to air 'Earth Today,' 'Energy Tonight' programs on April 19

The S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC) will rebroadcast its Emmy Award-winning "Earth Today" program on Tuesday, April 19 beginning at 1 p.m. All South Carolina ETV stations will air the program. It also will be available nationwide via PBS satellites. "Earth Today" is a spoof of NBC's "Today Show" and features student anchors who report on a variety of environmental topics – from electric cars and litter cleanup to recycling and energy conservation.

Recycling coordinators are encouraged to "adopt" a school on April 19, watch the program in the classroom and answer questions about the show. DHEC's Office of Solid Waste Reduction and Recycling (Office) will have pencils and activity books available for recycling coordinators to take with them when "adopting" a school or class.

"Energy Tonight," a new program produced by the S.C. Energy Office in partnership with the Office, will air at 1:30 p.m. immediately following "Earth Today." "Energy Tonight" spoofs the infotainment show "Entertainment Tonight" and features ways to have an energy-efficient home.

Call 1-800-768-7348 or visit [www.scdhec.gov/earthtoday](http://www.scdhec.gov/earthtoday) for lesson plans created for the "Earth Today" segments. The lesson plans have been correlated to the National Science Standards.

## It pays to recycle: AAA Carolinas will pay members \$1 for each old battery

AAA Carolinas will celebrate Earth Day during the week of April 18-23 by urging Carolina motorists to turn in potentially poisonous dead or unused vehicle batteries to a AAA Carolinas Approved Auto Repair (AAR) facility, battery assist station or AAA AutoMark Car Care Center.

AAA Carolinas members will receive \$1 for each battery turned in and a scheduled free battery checkup. Normally, a fee of up to \$5 is charged for a facility to accept a dead battery, which is refunded if a new battery is purchased. Last year, AAA Carolinas members turned in more than 1,116 batteries. Nationwide, more than 56,000 have been collected since 2001.

With about 230 million cars and trucks on the road today in America, millions of batteries are dying each year. Considering that each battery contains 21 pounds of lead and one gallon of sulfuric acid, these batteries are a danger to human health and the environment.

The good news – typically, 99 percent of a lead-acid battery is recyclable. The lead is melted, poured into ingots and delivered to battery plants to be used in new batteries. The plastic is chipped, washed and delivered to a plastics plant, where it is melted and made into new battery cases and other parts. The sulfuric acid can be reused on a limited basis or neutralized.

"The AAA Carolinas Great Battery Roundup, with partners Club Assist and Exide Corporation, is designed to encourage motorists to bring in any unused auto or marine batteries," said Fred Bayha, AAA Carolinas field representative and battery specialist. "We hope the roundup will discourage illegal dumping and encourage recycling."

Visit [www.aaacarolinas.com/Newsroom/Magazine/MarApr05/MarApr05\\_approvedautorepair.htm](http://www.aaacarolinas.com/Newsroom/Magazine/MarApr05/MarApr05_approvedautorepair.htm) for a list of participating retailers.

*Information taken from the March-April 2005 issue of "Go Magazine," a publication of AAA.*

## E2L Workshop set for June 22

Energy 2 Learn (E2L): The Summer Workshop will be held Wednesday, June 22 in Columbia. E2L is a comprehensive workshop for kindergarten-12 teachers. This annual workshop is limited to 200 participants. Registration is free. The deadline to register is May 20.

This year's workshop will include: sessions on air, water, recycling and energy lessons from "Action for a cleaner tomorrow: A South Carolina Environmental Curriculum Supplement;" a treasure hunt; and a viewing of the new "Energy Tonight" program.

For more information about the workshop or for a registration form, visit [www.scdhec.gov/recycle/html/e2l.html](http://www.scdhec.gov/recycle/html/e2l.html) or call 1-800-768-7348.

*Florence County's new farmer oil collection site opened in March. The site is located in Effingham.*



*Pickens County students enjoyed meeting the Recycle Guys at a recent "Trash Bash" event.*



## COUNTY NEWS

### CITY OF GREENVILLE

Recycle your computer and other obsolete electronic equipment (e-waste) at a collection event sponsored by the City of Greenville on April 23. The event will be held at 360 S. Hudson Street from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

E-waste accepted during the event includes televisions, computers, monitors, keyboards, scanners, printers and circuit boards.

The event is open to all City of Greenville residents. In addition, businesses may participate and can recycle up to three complete computer systems. Call (864) 467-8300 for more information.

### FLORENCE COUNTY

Florence County recently opened its first farmer's used oil collection tank made possible through grant funding from DHEC. The new tank is located at the county's staffed solid waste collection site in Effingham.

### PICKENS COUNTY

Pickens County third graders recently learned the importance of caring for the environment as part of the Pickens County Beautification and Environmental Advisory Committee's (B&EAC) fourth annual "Trash Bash."

This year, B&EAC – with volunteers from the county and other organizations – visited 15 elementary schools to present the Trash Bash in 62

classrooms. About 1,250 students participated in the program comprised of six interactive learning stations on litter prevention, recycling, beautification, storm water pollution prevention, watershed protection, worm and organic composting as well as the Trash Bash Trivia game. At the end of the program, students met the "Recycle Guys" and received T-shirts, activity books and other treats.

Dr. Mendel Stewart, superintendent of the Pickens County Schools, also enjoyed the "Trash Bash." "This is a great thing," Stewart said. "It is a very worthwhile project."

"This is a wonderful program," said Tammy Day, director of elementary education for Pickens County. "It gives the children first-hand knowledge of the importance of recycling and taking care of our environment. It provides the children with information and activities we would never have the chance to do."

B&EAC – a volunteer group working with Pickens County Environmental Services – receives its funding from Pickens County, grants and community sponsors. With this funding, B&EAC is able to make events such as the "Trash Bash" possible.



# 2005 Earth Day Events in South Carolina

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION	TIME	CONTACT
FRIDAY, APRIL 8	Earth Day at Coastal Carolina University	Coastal Carolina University	11 a.m. to 2 p.m.	Katie Davis <a href="mailto:kedavis@coastal.edu">kedavis@coastal.edu</a>
SATURDAY, APRIL 9	Earth Day Festival	Doug Shaw Memorial Stadium, Myrtle Beach	12 p.m. to 3 p.m.	Kendra Dickerson (843) 347-1651 <a href="mailto:kdickerson@solidwasteauthority.org">kdickerson@solidwasteauthority.org</a>
SATURDAY, APRIL 16	Kid's Earth Day	Lions Memorial Field, North Augusta	10 a.m. to 2 p.m.	Kim Newell (803) 641-7670 <a href="mailto:newellkr@dhec.sc.gov">newellkr@dhec.sc.gov</a>
SATURDAY, APRIL 16	Spring Jamboree	Youth Sports Complex, Chestnut Road, Fort Jackson	9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.	Barbara Williams (803) 751-6858 <a href="mailto:barbara.williams7@us.army.mil">barbara.williams7@us.army.mil</a>
TUESDAY, APRIL 19	"Earth Today" and "Energy Tonight" Television Programs	Statewide on South Carolina ETV	1 p.m. to 2 p.m.	1-800-768-7348 <a href="http://www.scdhec.gov/earthtoday">www.scdhec.gov/earthtoday</a>
FRIDAY, APRIL 22	City of Aiken Earth Day Celebration	Aiken's Carolina Bay Nature Reserve	10 a.m. to 2 p.m.	Tim Coakley (803) 642-7613 <a href="mailto:tcoakley@Aiken.net">tcoakley@Aiken.net</a>
SATURDAY, APRIL 23	Earth Day Celebration	Hollywild Zoo, Spartanburg	9 a.m. to 3 p.m.	Mary Lynn Eaddy (864) 439-5220 <a href="mailto:meaddy@spartanburgcounty.org">meaddy@spartanburgcounty.org</a>
SATURDAY, APRIL 23	Earth Day Festival	Home Depot, Surfside Beach	12 p.m. to 3 p.m.	Kendra Dickerson (843) 347-1651 <a href="mailto:kdickerson@solidwasteauthority.org">kdickerson@solidwasteauthority.org</a>
SATURDAY, APRIL 23	Earth Day at the Park	High Falls Park, Oconee County	9 a.m. to 4 p.m.	Veronda Lewis (864) 888-1440 <a href="mailto:vlewis@oconeesc.com">vlewis@oconeesc.com</a>
SATURDAY, APRIL 23	"Don't Be a Hard Drive – Recycle Your Computer!" Electronics Recycling Event	360 S. Hudson Street, Greenville	10 a.m. to 2 p.m.	Alysen Woodruff (864) 467-8300 <a href="mailto:wooda@greatergreenville.com">wooda@greatergreenville.com</a>
SATURDAY, APRIL 30	Earth Day Birthday	Museum of York County	10 a.m. to 2 p.m.	Leslie Hatchell (803) 628-3181 <a href="mailto:leslie.hatchell@yorkcountygov.com">leslie.hatchell@yorkcountygov.com</a>
SATURDAY, MAY 7	Earth Day Celebration	Saluda Shoals Park, Irmo	9 a.m. to 12 p.m.	(803) 772-1228

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